



Illustration by Janet Wingate;
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BOTRYCHIUM PALLIDUM
PALE MOONWORT

Pale Moonwort is a perennial with a single aboveground frond less than 10 cm tall, with a pale whitish green color, and divided into two segments that share a common stalk. The sterile segment is once pinnatifid and has up to 5 pairs of fan-shaped pinnae, 2-3 mm long, with concave sides. The sterile segment is shaped like a trough along the central axis. The fertile segment is longer than the sterile segment, branched, and bears grape-like sporangia. Spores germinate underground and develop into subterranean gametophytes. Fronds mature in June.

Resembles a very pale, dwarf form of *BOTRYCHIUM MINGANENSE* from which it is most readily distinguished by its very pale color, small pinnae less than 4 mm long, concave pinnae sides, and the trough-shape of the sterile segment rather than a flat blade.